AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (previously presented) A wireless communication system comprised of nodes, said nodes comprising:

    a serverless physical layer;

    a virtual layer; and

    an application layer comprising a plurality of independently operating applications;

    wherein load balancing is used to route data over the system.

2. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising at least one of: i) a protocol layer, ii) a Media Access Control layer, iii) a Hardware Abstraction layer and iv) an application interface layer.

3. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said application layer further comprises configuration software, wherein said configuration software is operable on a plurality of layers.

4. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein at least one independently operating application migrates between nodes.

5. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the virtual layer comprises at least one of i) a Virtual LAN, ii) a Virtual ID and iii) a Virtual Connection.

6. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising a protocol layer configured to dynamically adjust information routing paths between nodes.

7. (previously presented) A method of wireless communication comprising:

    using a wireless communication system including a serverless physical layer for acquiring input data; a virtual layer; and an application layer comprising a plurality of independently operating applications; and

    using load balancing to route data over the system.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the wireless communication system further comprises at least one of: i) a protocol layer, ii) a

Media Access Control layer, iii) a Hardware Abstraction layer and iv) an application interface layer.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein said application layer further comprises configuration software, wherein said configuration software is operable on a plurality of layers.

10. (Canceled)

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the wireless communication system has one or more nodes, further comprising using a communication routing table to dynamically change geometries of node positions to direct communication routes.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the virtual layer comprises at least one of i) a Virtual LAN, ii) a Virtual ID and iii) a Virtual Connection.

13. (previously presented) A wireless communication apparatus comprising:

a serverless physical layer connected to a device having a wireless transceiver configured to acquire input data;

a virtual layer comprising a plurality of independently operating applications; and

an application layer;

wherein load balancing is used to route data over the apparatus.

14. (previously presented) The wireless communication apparatus of claim 13 further comprising at least one of: i) a protocol layer, ii) a Media Access Control layer, iii) a Hardware Abstraction layer and iv) an application interface layer.

15. (previously presented) The wireless communication apparatus of claim 13 wherein said application layer further comprises configuration software, wherein said configuration software is operable on a plurality of layers.

16. (previously presented) The wireless communication apparatus of claim 13 further comprising at least one of: i) a GPS receiver; ii) a temperature sensor; iii) an electricity meter; and iv) a water measurement sensor.

17. (original) The wireless communication apparatus of claim 13 further comprising a routing table that dynamically changes geometries of node positions to direct communications routes.

18. (previously presented) The wireless communication apparatus of claim 13 wherein-the-virtual layer comprises at least one of i) a Virtual LAN, ii) a Virtual ID and iii) a Virtual Connection.

19. (previously presented) The wireless communication apparatus of claim 13 wherein said physical layer further comprises at least one of:

WAN software;
data input interfaces; and
memory for data storage.

20. (previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein said physical layer further comprises at least one of:

a wireless transceiver;
a computer;
WAN software;
data input interfaces; and
memory for data storage.

21. (previously presented) A multi-node data handling system comprising:

a plurality of nodes in wireless communication, the plurality of nodes comprising a first node having a physical layer including a wireless communication device configured to receive information in the form of data packets from at least one second node, the first node further including a computing device configured to implement a virtual layer comprising a Virtual LAN; and

an application layer comprising one or more computer-readable programs, the application layer configured to receive from the virtual layer only those data packets utilized by the application layer, the application layer configured to use the computer-readable programs to process the data packets received by the application layer;

wherein load balancing is used to route data over the system.

22. (previously presented) The system of claim 21 further comprising at least one of: i) a protocol layer, ii) a Media Access Control layer, iii) a Hardware Abstraction layer and iv) an application interface layer.

23. (previously presented) The system of claim 21 wherein said application layer further comprises configuration software, wherein said configuration software is operable on a plurality of layers.

24. (previously presented) The system of claim 21 wherein at least one independently operating application is configured to migrate between nodes.

25. (previously presented) The system of claim 21 wherein the virtual layer further comprises at least one of i) a Virtual ID and ii) a Virtual Connection.

26. (previously presented) A method of handling data in a multi-node system having a plurality of nodes, the method comprising:

receiving information at a first node, the first node comprising a physical layer including a wireless communication device, the information being in the form of data packets received from at least one second node, the first node further including a computing device implementing a virtual layer comprising a Virtual LAN;

routing data packets to an application layer comprising a computer-readable program, the routed data packets being only those data packets utilized by the application layer; and

processing the routed data packets in the application layer using the computer-readable program;

wherein load balancing is used to route data over the system.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 further comprising at least one of: i) a protocol layer, ii) a Media Access Control layer, iii) a Hardware Abstraction layer and iv) an application interface layer.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein said application layer further comprises configuration software, wherein said configuration software is operable on a plurality of layers.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the virtual layer further comprises at least one of i) a Virtual ID and ii) a Virtual Connection.

30. (previously presented) A wireless communication system for seismic data acquisition comprised of nodes, said nodes comprising:

a serverless physical layer;

a virtual layer; and

an application layer comprising a plurality of independently operating applications;

wherein load balancing is used to route data over the system.

31. (previously presented) A wireless communication system comprised of nodes, said nodes comprising:

a serverless physical layer comprising memory for data storage;

a virtual layer; and

an application layer comprising a plurality of independently operating applications;

wherein load balancing is used to route data over the system.

32. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the system is asynchronous and messages are prioritized to provide the synchronous communication over the asynchronous system.

33. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the nodes are compartmentalized into logical groups.

34. (previously presented) The system of claim 33, wherein communication in one logical group does not disturb communication in another logical group.

35. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one node is a repeater node.

36. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one node is in communication with one or more seismic vibrators.

37. (new) The system of claim 1, wherein the physical layer comprises heterogeneous communications equipment.

38. (new) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the nodes has multiple virtual node identification.

39. (new) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the nodes includes a GPS receiver configured to store a GPS position which when queried enables one of: i) observing LAN coverage at a remote computer, and ii) finding lost nodes.